

**Bison Discussion Group Agenda**  
**Convened by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**  
**Yogo Inn, Lewiston, Montana**  
***April 15-16, 2014***

This agenda has been divided into a variety of topics to allow the group to discuss the issues, concerns, and potential opportunities related to bison management in Montana. A selection of support material developed by FWP to aid in the discussion on potential alternatives will be provided. Additional information including references will be available.

**April 15** *(Times shown below may vary by as much as one hour earlier or later.)*

**10:00 Introduction and Welcome** *(Ginny Tribe)*

- **Introduction of Members**
- **Reiteration of Ground Rules**
- **Meeting Logistics**
- **Purpose and Need**
- **Goals of Group**
  - First Session Objectives (September 2013): 1. Provide a discussion opportunity to better inform and clarify interests and concerns about bison on the landscape in the area; 2. Explore common values, parameters and guiding principles related to bison
  - Second Session Objectives (April 2014): 1. Evaluate potential alternatives to be included in a MEPA analysis and discuss some of the specific issues associated with each alternative.

**10:30 Overview of Process to Date** *(FWP)*

- **Initial Evaluation and Development of Public Information Background Document**
- **Public Scoping Process**

**11:00 Clarification on the Major Issues Identified During Scoping and the September Meeting**

- **Management of Yellowstone Bison** *(Pat Flowers and Christian Mackay)*
  - *Update on the current Environmental Assessment For Year-Round Bison Tolerance on the West Side of the Park*
  - *Status of Quarantine Feasibility Study Bison (Turner Enterprises; Fort Peck & Fort Belknap)*
  - *Additional Updates*
- **Statutes that Relate to Bison** *(FWP: Becky Dockter)*
  - Legal Classification of Bison
  - Statutes and Legal Rulings that Relate to Conservation of Bison.
  - Additional Statutes Related to Confinement, Liability, etc.

- **Reportable Diseases in Bison and Livestock** (*Department of Livestock*)
  - Disease risk
  - Disease management
- **Property Rights** (*FWP to include Becky Dockter*)
- **Other Topics as Determined Necessary**

### **1:00 Lunch (provided to group)**

### **2:00 Presentation and Description of Alternatives Identified through Scoping** (*FWP*) (*Brief synopsis of each alternative to include a listing of the pluses and minuses as documented by herd managers, research findings, etc.*)

- **Alternatives Determined to be Outside the Scope of this Process**
- **Alternative 1- No Action**
- **Alternative 2- Slow Growing, Very Small Herd (<50 bison)**
- **Alternative 3- Small Research Herd (<100 bison)**
- **Alternative 4- Minimum Genetic Herd (200-400 bison)**
- **Alternative 5- Effective Population Size (at least 1,000 bison)**
- **Alternative 6- Confined Herd**
- **Possible geographic locations for Alternatives 2-6**

### **6:00 Day 1 Meeting Concludes**

**April 16**

**8:00 Summary of Day 1, Logistics, etc. (Group and Ginny Tribe)**

**8:30 Discussion on Alternatives presented on Day 1 (Group and Ginny Tribe)**

- **Group discussion of ALL alternatives**
- **Group identification and/or confirmation of pluses and minuses for each alternative presented on Day 1**

**12:00 Lunch (provided to group)**

**1:00 Continued Discussion and Next Steps (Group and Ginny Tribe)**

- **Group discussion of ALL alternatives (continued)**
- **Group identification and/or confirmation of pluses and minuses for each alternative presented on Day 1 (continued)**
- **What is the next step of this process and for this group**
  - Additional Meetings? Are individual, agency or organization presentations necessary at any future meetings?
  - Additional Support Material Needs?
  - Timeline for drafting the EIS
  -
- **Recommendation for EIS Process**
  - Public meetings
  - Comment period

**4:00 Meeting Concludes**